



Oxford Read and Discover

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Animals At Night

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# Introduction

At night, when you go to bed, thousands of animals are moving around outside in the dark. Many of them do not sleep all night!

Do you know any animals that come out at night?

How do animals see in the dark?

What animals can you see here?



Now read and discover more about amazing animals at night!

# 1

## Life at Night



An Opossum

When the sun goes down, it gets dark and the air gets a lot colder. For many people, it's time to go to sleep, but a lot of animals only come out at night. They are called nocturnal animals.

The opossum is a nocturnal animal. At night, it looks for plants and small animals to eat. In the day, it hides and goes to sleep.



The armadillo is a nocturnal animal, and it sleeps for more than 17 hours in the day!







Nocturnal animals aren't the only animals that come out at night. Some animals, like the tiger, come out in the day and at night. Other animals, like the rabbit, only come out in the morning when it's getting light, and in the evening when it's getting dark.

Some animals come out at night because there are not so many predators – animals that want to hunt and eat them. Some animals find more food because they eat other animals that come out at night. In very hot places, it's sometimes too hot to come out in the day.



# 2

## Special Senses

Many animals that come out at night have special senses. This means that they can see, hear, touch, smell, or taste very well. These special senses help them to find food and to stay safe in the dark.

Wild dogs, like foxes, usually hunt in the dark. They have a big nose, and an amazing sense of smell that helps them to find food. A fox can smell mice through up to 12 centimeters of snow! Foxes also have very big ears that they can move, so they can hear very well all around them.

A Fox Smelling for Food







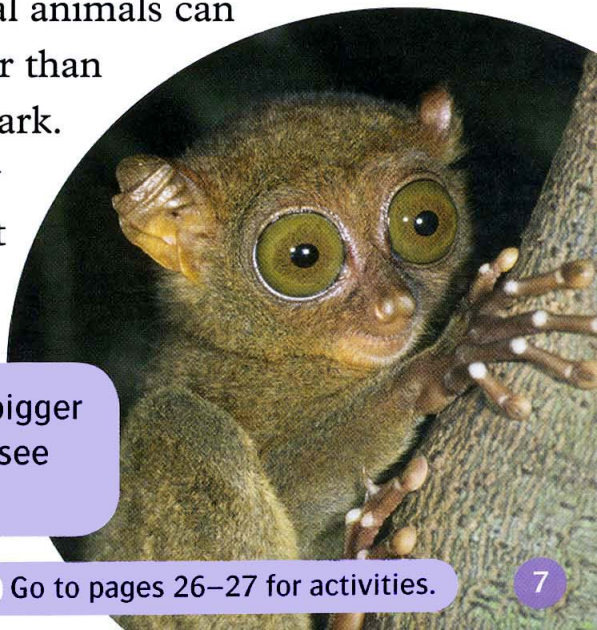
Raccoons

Raccoons are nocturnal animals that have long fingers and a very good sense of touch. When they are hunting for food in water, they use their fingers to find fish and frogs.

Many nocturnal animals can see much better than people in the dark. They have very big eyes that let in lots of light.



A tarsier's eye is bigger than its brain! It can see very well in the dark.



Go to pages 26–27 for activities.

# Flying at Night



In the day, owls stay in trees or buildings, but at night they hunt for food. Owls can see very well in the dark, and they also have an amazing sense of hearing. They listen for little noises from their prey – rabbits, mice, and other small animals that they like to eat. Then they fly down and catch them in their sharp claws.

Many owls have soft feathers on their wings, so they can fly very quietly. Their prey don't know that they are coming!



Most types of bat are nocturnal. At night they look for fruit and flowers, or they hunt for insects, fish, and mice. Bats can see and smell very well, and many bats have a special sense called echolocation. This helps them to find food in the dark. Bats make special noises when they fly. The noises bounce off things and come back as echoes. These echoes tell bats where things are and how big they are.

In the day, bats hang upside down and stay in caves, trees, and buildings.



Bats are the only mammals that can fly!



Go to pages 28–29 for activities.

# 4

## Ocean Animals

Some fish live near the top of the ocean in the day and then they swim down to the deep ocean at night. Other fish swim up to the top of the ocean at night, and they look for plankton – very small animals that swim up to the top of the ocean every evening to find food.

Plankton are food for fish like the lantern fish. The lantern fish stays down in the deep ocean in the day, but when the sun goes down it swims to the top of the ocean. It feeds near the top of the ocean at night, and then swims back down before morning.

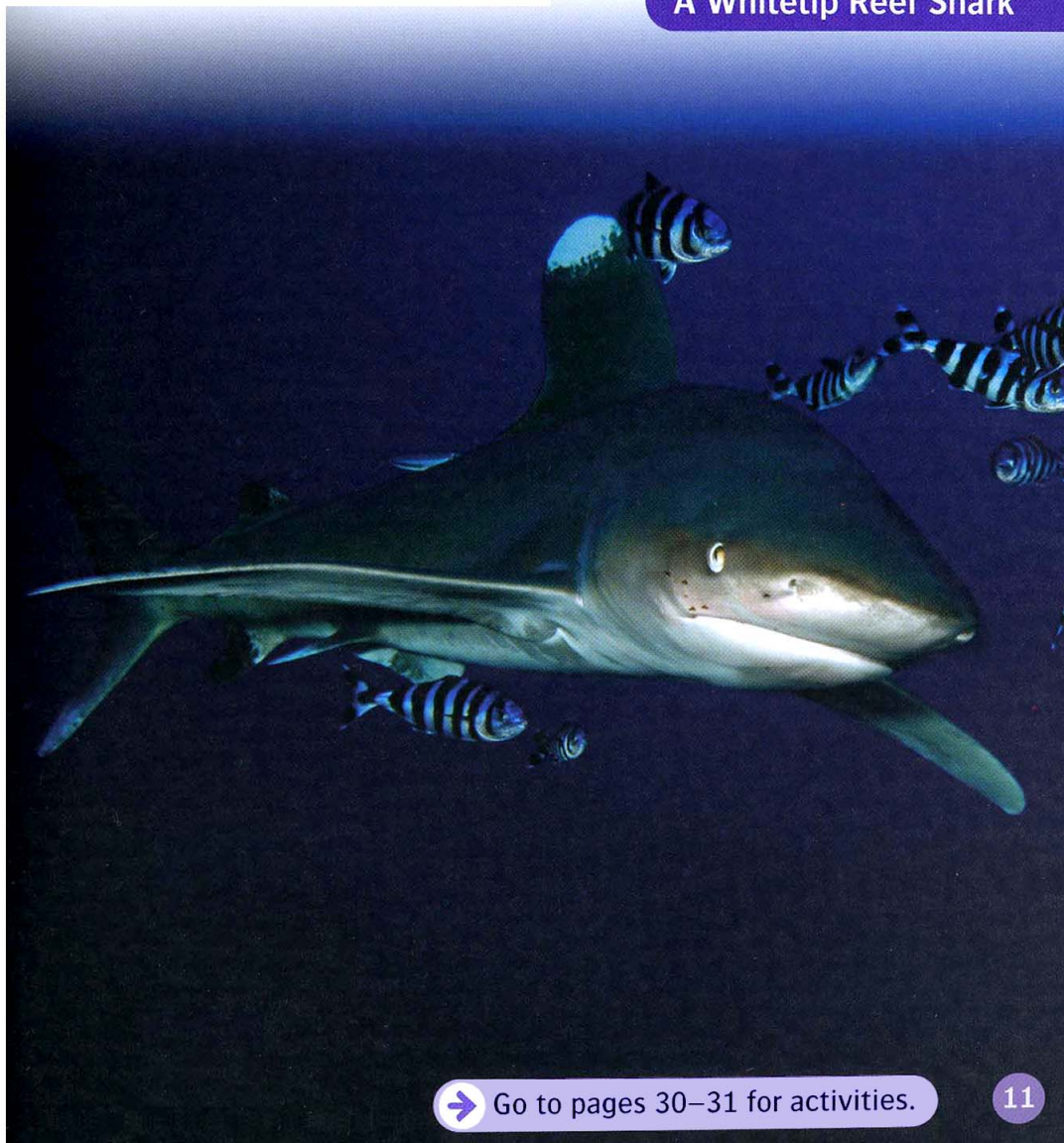


The lantern fish has lights on its body when it swims.



The whitetip reef shark also comes out at night. It stays in caves down in the deep ocean in the day, and doesn't move very much. Then at night, it comes out to hunt for fish and octopuses.

### A Whitetip Reef Shark



Go to pages 30–31 for activities.

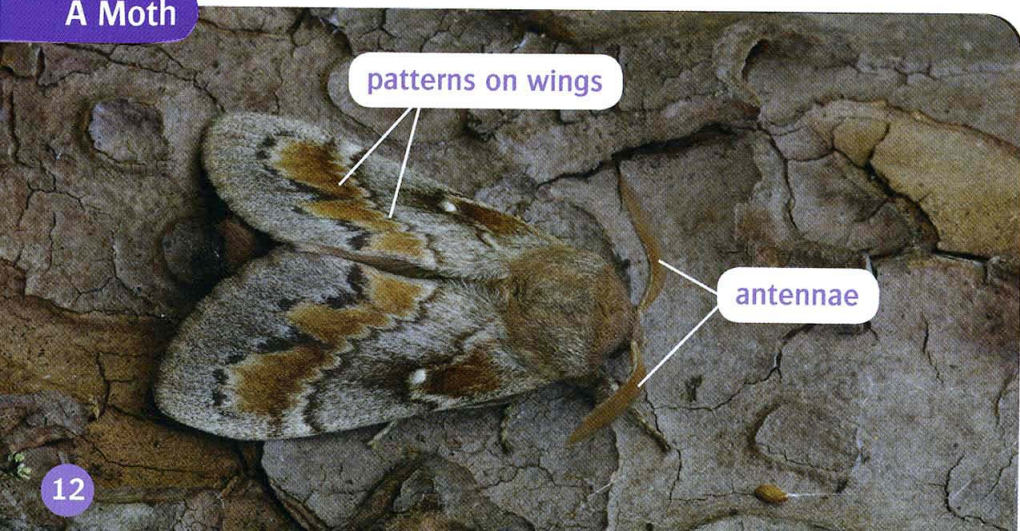
# 5

## Minibeasts

Many minibeasts, like moths and spiders, come out at night. Minibeasts come out at night because there are not so many predators that hunt and eat them. Slugs and snails look for food at night because the sun can dry them out in the day.

Moths are insects. They have a body that's good for living at night. They have special antennae on their head. These help them to look for food and to find their way in the dark. Moths also have patterns on their wings that help them to hide in trees in the day.

### A Moth





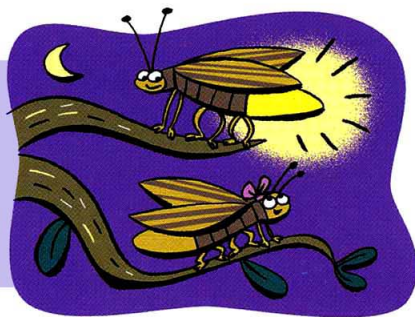


A Tarantula Eating Its Prey

Tarantulas are spiders. They hunt for their prey at night. Special hairs on their body help them to feel when another animal is near. They hide, and then they jump on their prey, and put poison in its body.



Nocturnal fireflies make lights in their body that turn on and off at night. They use these lights to communicate.



# 6

## Desert Animals

In many deserts, it's very hot in the day, so many animals only come out at night. The fennec fox lives in the Sahara Desert in Africa. It stays in a burrow in the sand in the day, and at night it hunts for mice, lizards, and insects. It's the smallest fox in the world, but it has very big ears, so it can easily hear its prey in the dark.

A Fennec Fox







Kangaroo rats don't need to drink! They get water from the seeds that they eat.



Kangaroo rats live in deserts in North America. At night, they jump around and find seeds. They keep seeds in their mouth, and then they put them in their burrow.

Desert scorpions stay out of the sun in the day. At night, they come out to feed on minibeasts. Scorpions can't see well, but they have special hairs on their legs so that they can feel when prey is near.

They kill their prey with a sting from their tail.



A Scorpion



Go to pages 34–35 for activities.

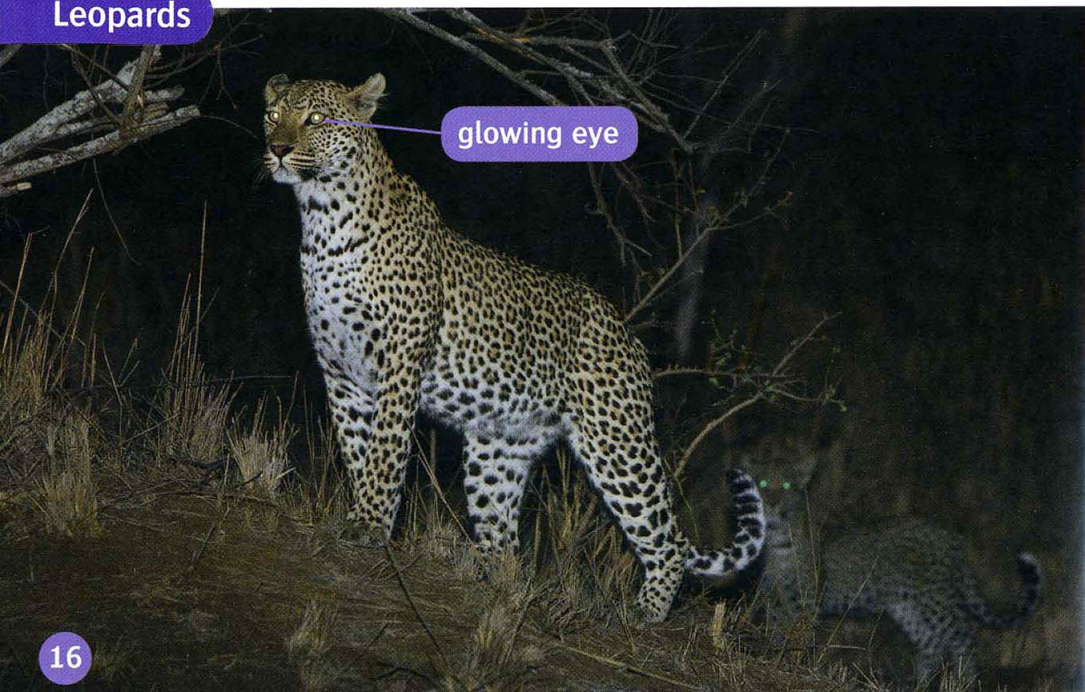
# 7

## African Animals

There are many nocturnal animals in Africa. Many big cats, like leopards, hunt for food at night. It's usually easier to catch prey when it's dark, and when it's cooler, too.

Big cats see very well, and they have a very good sense of hearing and smell, so they are good night hunters. Their eyes have a special part called the tapetum. The tapetum reflects light so that the cats can see in the dark. It can make their eyes glow.

### Leopards





Aardvarks can't see very well, but they have a big nose and big ears that they use to find ant nests at night. They dig up the nests and catch the ants on their sticky tongue.

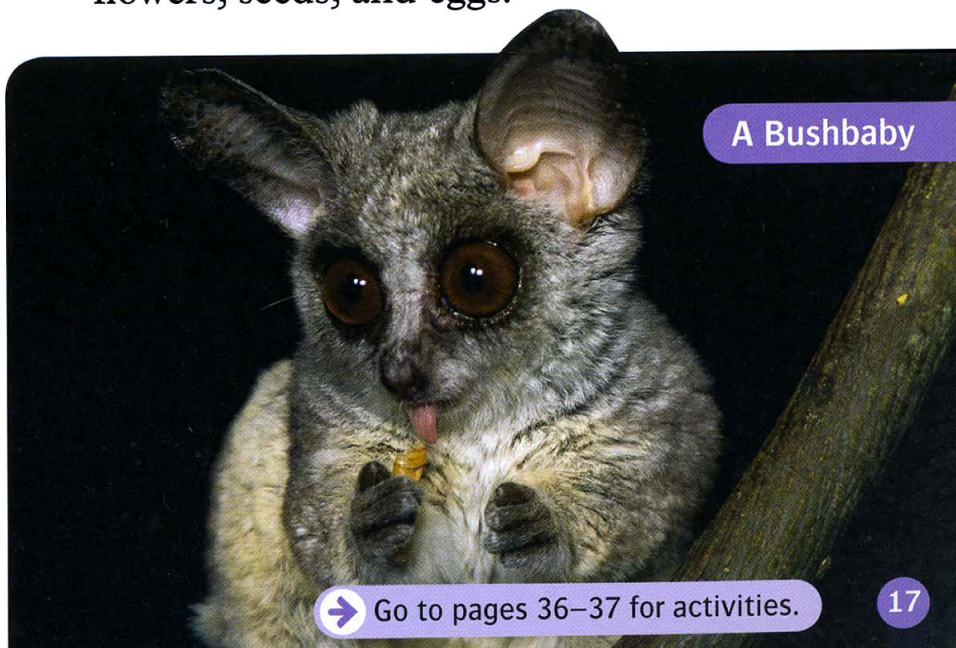


An aardvark can eat 50,000 insects in one night!



Hippos come out at night to eat grass. In the day, they stay in water because their skin needs to be wet and cool.

Bushbabies hunt for food at night. They use their big eyes to look in trees for insects, flowers, seeds, and eggs.



A Bushbaby



Go to pages 36–37 for activities.

# 8

## Animals Asleep

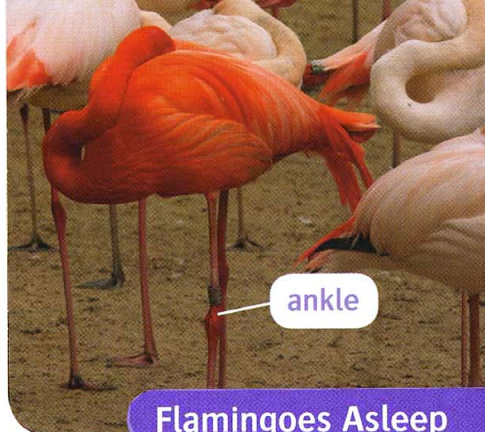


A Baboon Asleep

At night, when many animals are looking for food, others are asleep, just like you! In the evening, baboons climb up cliffs or into the tops of trees, and they sleep for about ten hours every night. In these high places, they know that they are safe from predators.



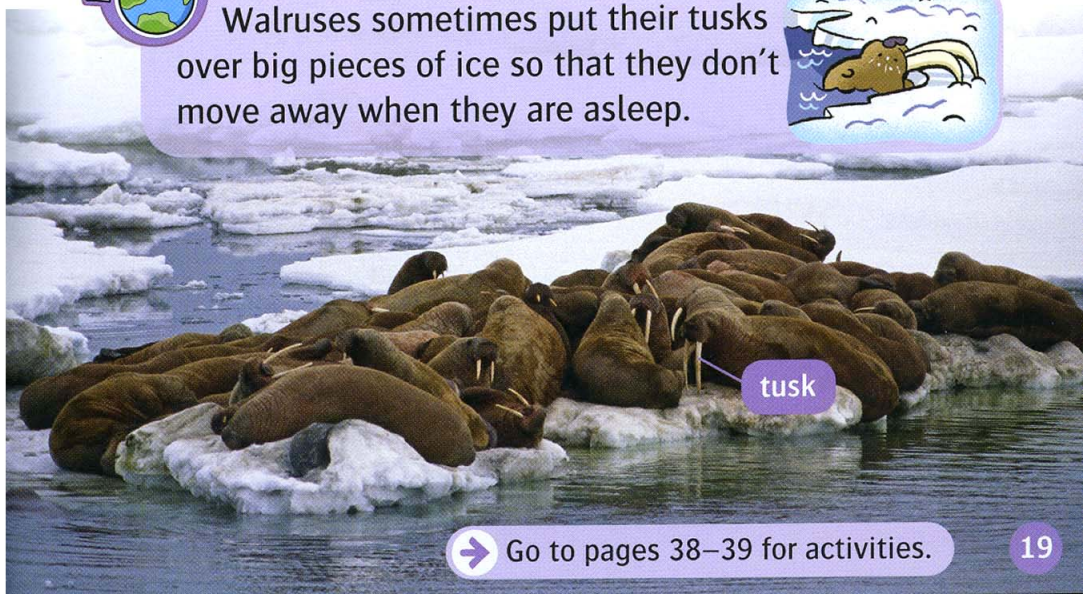
Flamingoes sleep at night, standing on one leg! They have special ankles that keep their legs straight so that they don't fall down.



Walrus live in the Arctic. It's light all night in the summer there. Walrus sleep on land, on ice, or in water. They can sleep for up to 19 hours. Walrus have special pouches on their body. When they sleep in water, they put lots of air in the pouches, to keep their head above the water.



Walrus sometimes put their tusks over big pieces of ice so that they don't move away when they are asleep.



Go to pages 38–39 for activities.

## 9

# Noises at Night

It's hard to see at night, so animals often use noises to communicate. Owls call to each other, and lions roar if predators come near their babies. When deer are in danger, they try to communicate with other deer. They make noises in their nose, and they hit the ground with their feet.

Most birds do not sing at night, but the male nightingale sings a beautiful song when it's looking for a female. Some insects make a lot of noise at night, too. The grasshopper makes noises with its wings and legs.

A male nightingale is perched on a dark, leafless branch in the foreground. The bird has a brownish head and back with a lighter, yellowish-green underbelly. Its beak is open as if it is singing. In the background, a large, bright, orange-hued full moon is visible against a dark, twilight sky. The overall scene is dimly lit, emphasizing the nocturnal setting.

A Male Nightingale





A Tasmanian Devil

The Tasmanian devil is a small animal that comes out to hunt for food in the dark. When it's scared or it thinks that another animal is going to take its food, it makes terrible noises.



When howler monkeys call to each other at night, you can hear them from about 5 kilometers away!



Go to pages 40–41 for activities.



# Traveling at Night

Every year, many types of bird migrate – they move from one place to another to live. These birds usually only come out in the day, but when they migrate, they travel at night. This is because they are safer from predators, and they can fly for longer because it's cooler. Also, they feed in the day, and then they have lots of energy to fly at night when they are full of food.

## Birds Migrating







### A Green Turtle Moving up a Beach

Green turtles are not usually nocturnal, but they travel at night when they are ready to lay their eggs. They swim to a beach and come out of the ocean. They wait until night when it's cooler. Then they move up the beach and lay their eggs in the sand.

When the baby turtles come out of the eggs, they dig their way out of the sand and they go to the ocean. The baby turtles do this at night when it's cooler, and when there are not so many predators.

There's a lot happening at night! All around the world, millions of animals are moving around, hunting for food, and traveling from one place to another.



# 1

## Life at Night

← Read pages 4–5.

### 1 Complete the chart.

dark hotter nocturnal animals don't sleep  
colder nocturnal animals sleep light

In the Day	At Night
	dark

### 2 Match. Then write complete sentences.

armadillos  
tigers  
rabbits  
opossums

at night  
in the morning and  
in the evening  
at night  
in the day and at night

1 Armadillos come out at night.

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_



### 3 Write *true* or *false*.

- 1 The armadillo sleeps for less than 6 hours in the day. false
- 2 The tiger only comes out at night. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 The rabbit is a nocturnal animal. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Some animals are nocturnal because there are not so many predators at night. \_\_\_\_\_

### 4 Complete the sentences.

predator nocturnal evening hides

- 1 The opossum hides and goes to sleep in the day.
- 2 The opossum and the armadillo are \_\_\_\_\_ animals.
- 3 The rabbit usually comes out in the morning and in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 A \_\_\_\_\_ is an animal that wants to hunt and eat another animal.

### 5 Circle the correct words.

Many animals are nocturnal because ...

- 1 at night there are more / not so many predators.
- 2 at night there's more / less food.
- 3 in the day, sometimes it's too cold / hot.

# 2

## Special Senses

← Read pages 6–7.

### 1 Match. Then write complete sentences.

raccoons  
foxes  
tarsiers  
foxes

big ears  
big eyes  
big noses  
long fingers

hearing  
smell  
touch  
sight

1 Raccoons have long fingers and a good sense of touch.

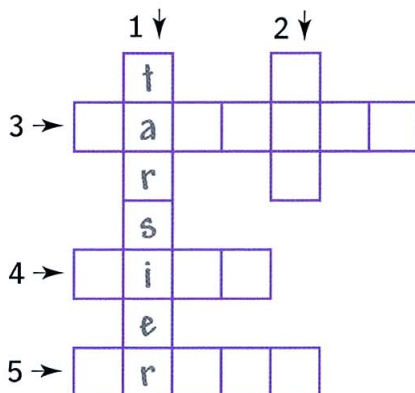
2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

### 2 Complete the puzzle.

- a nocturnal animal with very big eyes
- a nocturnal animal that has an amazing sense of smell and a very good sense of hearing
- a nocturnal animal that sometimes hunts for food in water
- foxes like to eat them
- animals that raccoons like to eat





### 3 Circle the correct words.

- 1 The five main senses are seeing, hearing, touch, smell, and **taste** / eating.
- 2 A fox can smell mice through up to **12** / **21** centimeters of snow.
- 3 **Tarsiers** / **Raccoons** like to eat fish and frogs.
- 4 Many nocturnal animals have very **small** / **big** eyes.
- 5 Their big eyes let in lots of **light** / **air**.
- 6 A tarsier's eye is bigger than its **head** / **brain**.

### 4 Order the words.

- 1 special / nocturnal / senses. / have / animals / Many

Many nocturnal animals have special senses.

- 2 dark. / usually / the / hunt / Wild / in / dogs

- 3 food. / their / fingers / use / to / Raccoons / find

- 4 better / people. / see / animals / can / Nocturnal / than

- 5 well / in / see / Tarsiers / can / dark. / the

# 3

## Flying at Night

← Read pages 8–9.

### 1 Complete the chart.

	Owls	Bats
Food:	rabbits, mice, and other small animals	
Where they stay in the day:		
Special senses:		
Another amazing fact:		

### 2 Write owl or bat.

- 1 It's a mammal. bat
- 2 It's a bird. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 It can fly very quietly because it has soft  
feathers on its wings. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 It has a special sense called  
echolocation. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 It hangs upside down in the day. \_\_\_\_\_



### 3 Write the words.

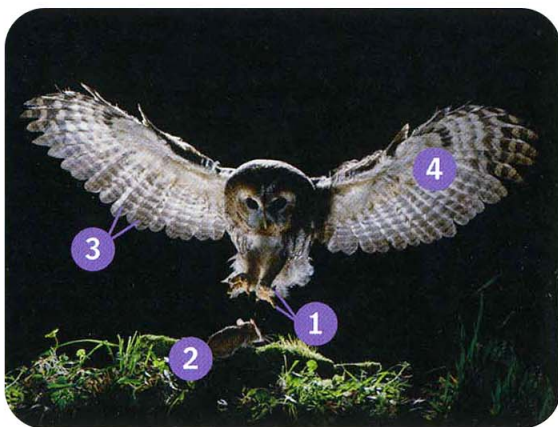
~~sharp claws~~   soft feathers   wing   prey

1 sharp claws

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_



### 4 Answer the questions.

1 What do owls listen for when they are hunting?

They listen for little noises from their prey.

2 How do they catch their prey?

\_\_\_\_\_

3 Why can owls fly very quietly?

\_\_\_\_\_

4 What special sense helps bats to find food?

\_\_\_\_\_

5 What do echoes tell bats?

\_\_\_\_\_

# 4

## Ocean Animals

← Read pages 10–11.

### 1 Match. Then write sentences.

Plankton are  
Lantern fish are  
Whitetip reef  
sharks are

fish that stay in caves  
in the day.  
small animals that  
are food for fish.  
fish that have lights on  
their body when they swim.

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_

### 2 Correct the sentences.

- 1 Plankton are very big animals.  
Plankton are very small animals.
- 2 They swim down to the deep ocean at night.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Lantern fish stay at the top of the ocean in the day.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 In the day, the whitetip reef shark feeds in caves.  
\_\_\_\_\_



### 3 Complete the sentences.

evening lights day night

- 1 The whitetip reef shark comes out at \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 Plankton swim up to the top of the ocean every \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 The lantern fish stays down in the deep ocean in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 The lantern fish has \_\_\_\_\_ on its body when it swims.

### 4 Answer the questions.

- 1 What do whitetip reef sharks eat?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Why do many fish swim up to the top of the ocean at night?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 What do lantern fish eat?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Where do lantern fish feed at night?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 What does the whitetip reef shark do at night?  
\_\_\_\_\_

← Read pages 12–13.

## 1 Write the minibeasts. Then write the numbers.

1 tomh moth

4 lasi<sup>n</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

2 driPse \_\_\_\_\_

5 reffily \_\_\_\_\_

3 glus \_\_\_\_\_



## 2 Complete the sentences.

patterns lights antennae poison sun hairs

- 1 Slugs and snails hunt for food at night so that they do not dry out in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 Moths have special \_\_\_\_\_ that help them to find their way in the dark.
- 3 Moths have \_\_\_\_\_ on their wings that help them to hide.
- 4 Tarantulas have special \_\_\_\_\_ on their body.
- 5 Tarantulas put \_\_\_\_\_ into the body of their prey to kill it.
- 6 Fireflies make \_\_\_\_\_ in their body.



### **3 Write about moths and tarantulas.**

Three things that I read about moths on page 12:

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

Another thing that I know about moths:

\_\_\_\_\_

Three things that I read about tarantulas on page 13:

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

Another thing that I know about tarantulas:

\_\_\_\_\_

### **4 Answer the questions.**

1 Why do many minibeasts come out at night?

\_\_\_\_\_

2 What do moths' antennae do?

\_\_\_\_\_

3 What helps moths to hide in trees in the day?

\_\_\_\_\_

4 When do tarantulas hunt for their prey?

\_\_\_\_\_

# 6

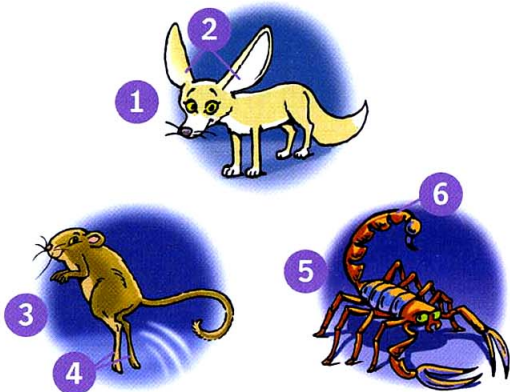
## Desert Animals

Read pages 14–15.

tail fennec fox legs  
kangaroo rat scorpion ears

### 1 Write the words.

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_



### 2 Write *true* or *false*.

- 1 In the desert, many animals only come out in the day because it's too cold at night. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 The fennec fox lives in the Sahara Desert in Africa. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Kangaroo rats find seeds and they keep them in their mouth. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Scorpions feed on minibeasts. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Scorpions can see very well. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 In the desert, scorpions stay out of the sun in the day. \_\_\_\_\_



### 3 Answer the questions.

1 Where does the fennec fox stay in the day?

\_\_\_\_\_

2 What does the fennec fox hunt for at night?

\_\_\_\_\_

3 What do kangaroo rats do with the seeds that they find?

\_\_\_\_\_

4 How do scorpions kill their prey?

\_\_\_\_\_

### 4 Complete the sentences. Then match.

see seeds ears water hairs smallest

1 It eats \_\_\_\_\_.

2 It has special \_\_\_\_\_  
on its legs.

3 It's the \_\_\_\_\_ fox in  
the world.

4 It has very big \_\_\_\_\_.

5 It gets \_\_\_\_\_ from seeds.

6 It can't \_\_\_\_\_ well.

fennec fox  
kangaroo rat  
scorpion  
fennec fox  
kangaroo rat  
scorpion

# 7

## African Animals

← Read pages 16–17.

### 1 Write the words.

leopard    aardvark    hippo    bushbaby



1 \_\_\_\_\_



2 \_\_\_\_\_



3 \_\_\_\_\_



4 \_\_\_\_\_

### 2 Find and write the words from pages 16–17.

1 two big things that aardvarks have

\_\_\_\_\_ ears \_\_\_\_\_

2 three very good senses that big cats have

\_\_\_\_\_

3 four things that bushbabies eat

\_\_\_\_\_

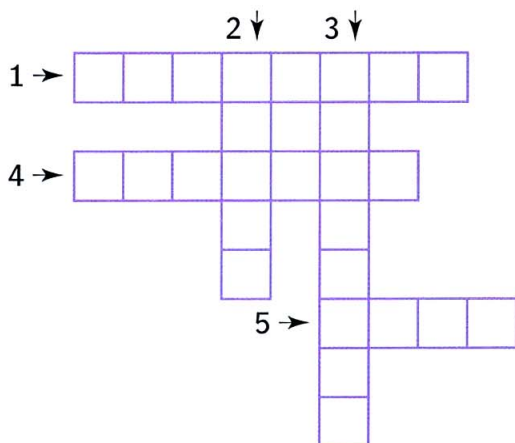


### 3 Complete the sentences.

tongue trees grass tapetum insects cooler

- 1 Big cats hunt for food at night because it's \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 An aardvark can eat 50,000 \_\_\_\_\_ in one night.
- 3 Hippos come out at night to eat \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 Bushbabies hunt for food in \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 Aardvarks have a sticky \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 Cats can see in the dark because their eyes have a special part called the \_\_\_\_\_.

### 4 Complete the puzzle.



- 1 an animal with big eyes that looks for food in trees
- 2 an animal that lives in water in the day and comes out at night
- 3 an animal with big ears and a big nose that hunts for insects at night
- 4 a big cat that hunts at night
- 5 an aardvark's favorite food

# 8

## Animals Asleep

← Read pages 18–19.

### 1 Match. Then write complete sentences.

How does it sleep?

baboon  
flamingo  
walrus

on cliffs or in the tops of trees  
with its tusks over pieces of ice  
standing on one leg

- 1 A baboon sleeps on cliffs or in the tops of trees.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_

### 2 Circle the correct words.

- 1 Baboons sleep for about **two** / **ten** hours every night.
- 2 Flamingoes have special **tusks** / **ankles** that keep their legs straight.
- 3 Walruses can sleep for up to **nine** / **nineteen** hours.
- 4 Walruses put **water** / **air** in their pouches.
- 5 Walruses put their **tusks** / **legs** over big pieces of ice.



### 3 Answer the questions.

1 Why do baboons sleep in high places?

---

2 How do flamingoes sleep at night?

---

3 What do flamingoes have that keep their legs straight?

---

4 Where do walruses sleep?

---

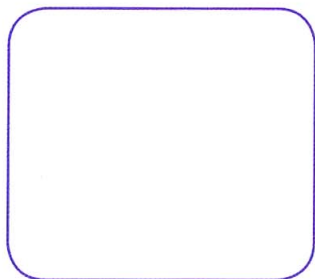
5 How do walruses keep their head above water when they sleep?

---

6 Why don't walruses move away when they sleep in water?

---

### 4 Draw an animal asleep and write about how it sleeps.



*This animal is called*

---

---

---

---

# 9

## Noises at Night

← Read pages 20–21.

### 1 Find and write the animals.

1 owl

2 l

3 d

4 n

5 g

6 Tasmanian

7 \_\_\_\_\_

monkey

a	r	l	i	o	n	h	o	t	i	v
y	o	k	i	o	i	j	n	a	w	g
u	o	p	b	h	g	t	i	h	d	i
g	r	a	s	s	h	o	p	p	e	r
s	c	o	i	t	t	u	i	o	e	r
h	i	d	e	v	i	l	e	e	r	p
t	i	o	h	r	n	u	m	s	r	o
y	i	w	a	r	g	s	i	t	r	i
b	n	e	s	i	a	o	i	p	e	r
p	u	o	o	w	l	y	s	v	u	n
s	h	o	w	l	e	r	b	u	n	s

### 2 Order the words.

1 other / Owls / each / call / night. / at / to

\_\_\_\_\_

2 do / Most / at / not / night. / sing / birds

\_\_\_\_\_

3 a / The / sings / male / female. / nightingale / for

\_\_\_\_\_

4 noises. / Tasmanian / makes / devil / The / terrible

\_\_\_\_\_



### 3 Correct the sentences.

- 1 A deer hits the ground with its nose when it's in danger.
- 

- 2 A grasshopper makes noises with its wings and mouth.
- 

- 3 A Tasmanian devil is a big animal that hunts for food in the dark.
- 

- 4 You can hear howler monkeys from about 10 kilometers away.
- 

### 4 Match. Then write complete sentences.

deer  
nightingales  
Tasmanian  
devils

sing  
make noises  
in their nose  
make terrible  
noises

looking for  
a female  
in danger  
scared

- 1 Deer make noises in their nose when they are  
in danger.

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

# 10 Traveling at Night

← Read pages 22–23.

## 1 Write *true* or *false*.

- 1 Many birds that usually come out in the day migrate at night. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Migrating is when animals move from one place to another to live. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Green turtles usually lay their eggs in the day. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Baby turtles go to the ocean after they come out of the eggs. \_\_\_\_\_

## 2 Complete the sentences. Then write the numbers.

eggs ocean beach baby

- 1 The green turtle moves up the beach.
- 2 It lays its \_\_\_\_\_ in the sand.
- 3 The \_\_\_\_\_ turtles dig their way out of the sand.
- 4 They go to the \_\_\_\_\_.



### 3 Answer the questions.

1 Why do birds migrate at night?

---

---

2 Are green turtles nocturnal?

---

3 Where do green turtles lay their eggs?

---

4 Why do baby turtles move down to the ocean at night?

---

---

### 4 Find and write the animals in the chart.

scorpion roach hawk buffalo fox  
iguana turtle hippopotamus bat plankton

Desert Animals	<u>scorpion</u>	
Ocean Animals		
African Animals		
Animals That Fly at Night		





# Nocturnal Animals

**1** Complete the chart for this nocturnal animal.

Name:	fennec fox
What it looks like:	
Where it lives:	
What it does in the day:	
What it does at night:	
Interesting fact:	

**2** Choose another nocturnal animal. Complete the chart.

Name:	
What it looks like:	
Where it lives:	
What it does in the day:	
What it does at night:	
Interesting fact:	

**3** Make a poster. Write sentences about the nocturnal animal and add pictures. Display your poster.

# A Walk at Night

- 1** Go for a short walk at night with an adult, or look outside your home at night.
- 2** Write notes about what you saw and heard.

Time	Animals that I saw:	Animal noises that I heard:	What the animals were doing:

- 3** Write sentences about your walk at night.

---



---



---



---

# Picture Dictionary



brain



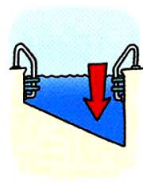
burrow



cliff



danger



deep



deer



dig



fall



female



food



fruit



grass



grasshopper



ground



hang  
upside down



hide



hunt



insects



kill



lay eggs





male



mammals



mice



million



noise



ocean



poison



pouches



quiet



reflect



seeds



skin



slug



smell



snail



spider



sting



tail



taste



top



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# Animals At Night

Rachel Bladon

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**Level 4**  
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